

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 23, 2004, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Prior to this paper claims 1-12 were pending. By this paper, Applicants cancel claim 2 and add claims 13-20. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-20 are now pending.

- Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for
- allowance for the reasons that follow.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Trieu for the indication that claims 2-9 contain allowable subject matter.

Specification Objection

Paragraph 0023 of the specification is objected to as containing a typographical error. Applicants have amended paragraph 0023, as seen above, and respectfully request reconsideration of the objection. Applicants thank Examiner Trieu for recommending a change to the paragraph to overcome the rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,710) in view of Woollenweber (U.S. Patent No. 6,062,026). In response, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants incorporate the recitations of claim 2, a claim indicated as containing allowable subject matter when depending from claim 1, into claim 1, and cancel claim 2 without prejudice or

disclaimer. Moreover, Applicants place claim 9 into independent form by incorporating the recitations of claim 1, as examined, into claim 9.

In regard to claims 11 and 12, Applicants amend these claims in a manner concomitant with the amendment to claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims, as amended, are allowable for at least the pertinent reasons that make claim 1 allowable.

New Claims

As seen above, Applicants have added new claims 13-20. Claim 13 is duplicative of originally filed claim 9, and is allowable due to its dependency from claim 1, a claim that is allowable. Claims 14-20 depend from claim 11, a claim that is also allowable, and, therefore claims 14-20 are allowable. Claims 14-20 find support in originally filed claims 3-8 and 10, respectively.

Conclusion


Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Trieu is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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